



# FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

## In This Issue

CALL FOR  
STATE PROPOSALS

FOCUS ON THE  
CORAL FELLOWSHIP:  
CORAL UPDATES

FOCUS ON THE CENTER

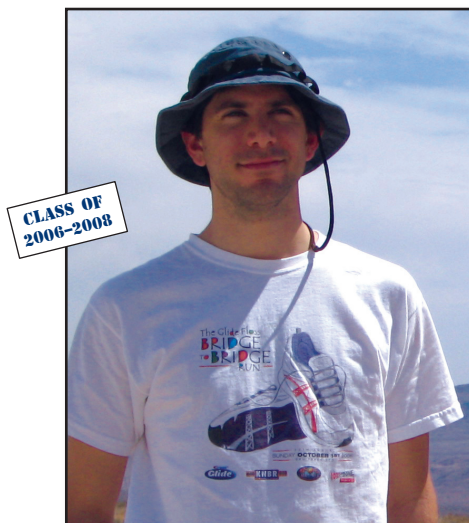
UPCOMING CONFERENCES  
AND EVENTS

October 2007, Issue 35



## FOCUS ON FELLOWS:

### Elijah Davidian



Most days, Eli Davidian's life revolves around the beauty and critical importance of the natural world. In the heart of San Francisco at the California Coastal Commission, this coastal fellow works to protect resources, foster green building, and lessen the effects of climate change. On the weekends, Eli "clears out the cobwebs"

by riding the surf at nearby beaches and hiking the upper reaches of Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Desolation Wilderness.

"I can't really point to an epiphany that triggered my interest in environmental and coastal issues," says Eli. However, his nomadic childhood certainly played a part. Before entering college, Eli lived in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Maine, Texas, and Tennessee, as well as in England and India.

Eli's father was not a military officer, as some might assume, but a journalist who often relocated as a means of "moving up" in the business. "While all that moving may have strained friendships and early education, I wouldn't trade those experiences for anything," says Eli.

"Traveling with my father throughout the developed and developing worlds revealed much about the ways in which different cultures interact with their environment on both spiritual and subsistence levels," notes Eli. At the same time, Eli's fascination with living systems was influenced by his mother, a medical professional.

Years at international boarding schools in England and India also shaped Eli's outlook and career aspirations. "The schools embodied

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



NOAA Coastal Services Center  
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

common threads of philosophy—based on the teachings of [spiritual teacher and writer] Jiddu Krishnamurti—and emphasized, among other things, the enactment of positive global change.”

Unsure of his college plans, Eli moved in 1998 to Los Angeles, California, to care for his 98-year-old grandfather. He began taking classes at Santa Monica City College and two years later headed for the University of California–Santa Cruz to study environmental policy and journalism.

Eli’s years in Los Angeles were an object lesson in the importance of a healthy environment. “I remember riding my bike to school, choking on car exhaust. The traffic, smog, and lack of green space really got to me,” he admits.


Following graduation, Eli interned briefly with the Audubon Society in Alaska. Realizing that he wanted to learn more about environmental and policy issues, he enrolled at the University of Michigan to pursue an M.S. in natural resource policy. While there, he also pursued a master’s degree in urban planning and graduated with both degrees in 2006.

Eli’s graduate studies in sustainable development, smart growth, and aquatic ecosystems have proven useful in his current position. His duties include devising a systematic approach to monitoring whether developers are abiding by the environmental conditions in their permits. Eli also sits on the green building subcommittee of

the agency’s Climate Change Task Force, and he chairs a committee that inventories the agency’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Eli considers himself fortunate to have landed this particular fellowship. “My mentors—Lisa Haage, enforcement chief, and Jack Ainsworth, deputy director—have been my compass from early on. They have really helped me hone my strategic and analytical thinking skills. The staff here has been tremendously supportive and accommodating,” he says. He is also grateful for fellowship-funded conference and training opportunities, such as the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) conference last spring in San Diego.

Plans for life after the fellowship are still in flux, although Eli’s future career will definitely entail land use law and policy. Whatever happens, he intends to stay in California, a national leader in environmental policy and management.

For now, “I thoroughly enjoy seeing firsthand the gears of the state regulatory process grinding away,” says Eli. “When you take the science, policy, legal reasoning, public participation, and political process all into account, and then observe it all coming together in a legally binding decision, the whole thing is truly amazing and quite exciting. I guess that’s kind of wonky—but hey, that’s why I’m here!” 

## FOCUS ON FELLOWS: Karlyn Langjahr



“I cannot think of anything on this planet more beautiful than healthy coral reefs!” says Coral Fellow Karlyn Langjahr. Karlyn was born in the landlocked North, just outside Milwaukee, Wisconsin. However, from an early age she felt a keen desire to learn more about the ocean, as well as a natural affection for the hot, humid tropical climate so common where coral reefs are found.

“I distinctly remember being struck with awe in seventh grade by our unit on oceanography, and I have desired to study the oceans ever since,” says Karlyn. A snorkeling trip in Caribbean waters at age 16, followed by a field course in tropical marine biology the next year, cemented her early interests.

Karlyn’s dream of living by the ocean was delayed for a time when she gave up her “California dreams” and attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison. “I never regretted that decision, and neither did my pocketbook,” she jokes.



While there, she found her niche working with aquatic ecologists in the university's Center for Limnology. Karlyn graduated with a B.S. in zoology (focusing on freshwater ecology) and a B.A. in French, which enabled her to strike a balance between science and the arts.

Following graduation, Karlyn spent more than two years living on the Pacific coast of Panama and working on community environmental projects as a Peace Corps volunteer. "I grew increasingly drawn to the cultural angle of conservation," she says of this period. "I was frustrated with how the typical environmental and conservationist approaches often ignored or misunderstood cultural dynamics influencing community decisions."

Next, Karlyn attended the University of Washington—Seattle to pursue her master's in marine affairs, an interdisciplinary degree that would address her interest in cultural factors. Her advisor, Dr. Patrick Christie, also a former Peace Corps volunteer, researched community-based coastal management in tropical developing countries, and he became an important influence in Karlyn's academic life.

For her field research, Karlyn studied the Danajon Bank of the Philippines, one of the few double barrier-reef systems in the world. She traveled to 28 sites—mostly small, offshore islands—to research the cultural perceptions of marine sanctuary management. While doing so, she was deeply moved by the experiences of traditional, small-scale fishermen, and she resolved to continue working with fishing communities, using a socioeconomic and cultural perspective.

Karlyn first heard of the Coral Fellowship in graduate school. "I kept it on my radar, since it seemed like a perfect job scenario, once I finished my degree," says Karlyn. She was very happy upon graduation to land the fellowship with the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Department of Planning and Natural Resources, in the Division of Coastal Zone Management.

While Karlyn has sometimes found the cultural and political landscape in the USVI to be challenging, she enjoys working with a diverse group—local government, staff members, nongovernmental organizations, schools, and community members. "I feel lucky to interact with so many dynamic, talented, and passionate people," she says. "Here in the USVI, I am constantly stimulated and in tune with some of the most common-thread societal issues across the globe."

One of her favorite projects is working with the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE). She coordinates

meetings and developed the first VINE capacity-building workshop, which was funded by NOAA. "It is very exciting to see VINE grow and evolve to the point where we expect to partner with the Department of Education this academic year," notes Karlyn.

The fellowship has also enabled Karlyn to receive professional training in socioeconomic monitoring and attend meetings of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. In the future, Karlyn hopes to use professional development funds to refresh her knowledge of coral reef biology and current technologies. "Things have changed dramatically since I took that marine biology course in Jamaica 12 years ago!" she notes.

Karlyn's future plans include continued work in tropical marine and coastal management, "with a spin placed on poverty relief and social justice. I think it's obvious that societal health and environmental health are inextricably linked," she notes. "I hope that, in working with people and communities, we'll identify ways to tackle local and regional issues at the grassroots level and see a spillover effect in the international arena." *fi*



## FOCUS ON THE CENTER

### Coast-to-Coast Land Cover Data Now Available through C-CAP

The Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP), an initiative headed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center, has released 1996 and 2001 land cover maps encompassing the coastal areas of the conterminous U.S.

C-CAP supplies critical information on regional development trends, habitat losses and gains, changes in sources of pollution or sedimentation, and other factors that affect coastal ecosystem health.

These land cover products inventory coastal intertidal areas, wetlands, and adjacent uplands with the goal of monitoring habitats on a five-year repeat cycle. The data are developed using remotely sensed imagery and feed directly into the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) and the National Map. Together, the NLCD and C-CAP products create one seamless land cover product for the nation.

In addition, by December 2007, C-CAP will help produce 2001 land cover data for Hawaii and Puerto Rico, and the NLCD will produce 2001 land cover data for Alaska.

C-CAP products offer several important advantages to coastal resource managers:

- The products are nationally standardized, with a target accuracy rate of 85 percent. That accuracy, plus C-CAP's big-picture view, aids users in collaborating across local and state regulatory boundaries.
- The products are flexible, permitting users to refine the data sets as needed and use C-CAP in concert with other information.
- C-CAP provides critical upstream information that can connect ecosystem changes seen upstream to effects occurring downstream.
- By pinpointing locations where changes have occurred, C-CAP products can aid coastal professionals who are crafting guidelines for future resource use or creating models that simulate land-use impacts.

To learn more about C-CAP products, visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/landcover/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/landcover/).

## FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP: Call for State Proposals

All U.S. states and territories with federally approved coastal zone management programs, as well as states developing such programs for approval, are eligible to submit one project proposal to compete for selection as a fellowship host state. Multiple state agencies or organizations with partnered implementation of a state's coastal management program are also eligible. States that currently host a first-year fellow are not eligible to apply for a second fellow. This year, six project proposals will be selected.

A six- to eight-page proposal in 12-point font must include these sections:

- Background and Introduction
- Goals and Objectives
- Milestones and Outcomes
- Project Description
- Fellow Mentoring
- Project Partners
- Cost Share Description
- Thematic Area\*

\*Please note that the Thematic Area requirement was a new requirement in 2007. Please visit the website at [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/projectselection.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/projectselection.html) for specific guidance.

Proposals are due to the NOAA Coastal Services Center by close of business on Friday, October 12, 2007. One signed proposal and four copies must be received by mail. Proposals transmitted via e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Send your proposal to

Coastal Management Fellowship Program  
c/o Margaret VanderWilt  
NOAA Coastal Services Center  
2234 South Hobson Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29405

To view examples of previously selected state proposals, visit the fellowship website at [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateprojects.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateprojects.html).



# FOCUS ON THE CORAL FELLOWSHIP: Fellow Updates

---

**Maria del Mar Lopez-Rivera**, coral fellow in Puerto Rico, has continued her work in the development of the management plan, now in its writing phase, for Mona Island Natural Reserve. In August, she worked to prepare education and outreach material for the Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in American Samoa, and she participated in the last fellowship training held in Honolulu. Besides this, Maria continues to look at different job opportunities as the end of the fellowship approaches.

**Lihla Noori**, coral fellow in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), is working to foster public support for the Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve, as developments in marine protected area management continue. A recent fisherman meeting highlighted the need for more effective enforcement. To address this problem, Lihla will focus on institutional and human capacity building by facilitating a strategic planning process with the Division of Fish and Wildlife that will lead to a week-long formal training program for conservation officers at the end of 2008.

Also a member of the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community Network (PIMPAC), Lihla hosted representatives in Rota; these meetings led to a formalized

partnership and process that will assist the Division of Fish and Wildlife to work in partnership with the Rota community in managing their fisheries. PIMPAC will return to Rota in November for a peer learning exchange where Pohnpeian and Hawaiian fisherman will be on site to share their experiences in community fisheries management with local fishermen. The PIMPAC facilitators will present processes and tools for community engagement and undertake an action planning session. In August, Lihla also attended the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in American Samoa where she presented a poster and summary of her fellowship term, which will come to a close in early 2008.

**Romina King**, coral fellow in Guam, has been concentrating recently on the impending military buildup in Guam and providing comments to the draft Environmental Impact Statement being prepared in anticipation of the buildup. She worked to develop and attract funding for Guam's International Year of the Reef strategy. She has also created a new website for the Guam Coral Reef Initiative and is continuing her efforts on grants management, reporting, and coordinating local action strategies for the Guam Coral

Reef Initiative. Along with the other fellows, Romina participated in August in a fellowship meeting in Hawaii and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in American Samoa.

**Petra MacGowan**, coral fellow in Hawaii, continues to provide support for the local action strategy coordinators and the implementation of the five strategies in Hawaii. She is also working on planning and coordinating the 3rd annual Living Reef Awards. This special annual awards program honors and recognizes outstanding groups, organizations, and individuals for their positive and exemplary contributions in promoting coral reef preservation throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

**Sharon Gulick**, coral fellow in American Samoa, was kept busy over the last few months with preparations for the 18th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force held in American Samoa from August 20 to 23, 2007. In addition to meeting planning, she coordinated the American Samoa Community Mural Project, which features images of coral reef scenery and traditional uses of coral reefs in American Samoa. Sharon also coordinated the composition and printing of two coral reef outreach books.

## CREDITS AND INFORMATION

*Fellow News* is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, Sea Grant, and the Center.

Please send your questions and suggestions for future editions to  
[csc.fellowships@noaa.gov](mailto:csc.fellowships@noaa.gov)

Co-Editors:  
*Margaret VanderWilt*  
*Kitty Fabey*

Communications Director:  
*Donna McCaskill*

Copy Editor:  
*Gerald Esch*

Graphic Designer:  
*Frank Ruopoli*

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### OCTOBER

3 to 6: **Rally 2007: The National Land Conservation Conference**

Denver, Colorado

[www.lta.org/training/rally.htm](http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm)

21 to 24: **American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and Texas General Land Office Fall Coastal Conference**

Galveston, Texas

[www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf\\_fall\\_07.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf_fall_07.htm)

### NOVEMBER

4 to 8: **Estuarine Research Foundation 2007 Conference**

Providence, Rhode Island

[www.erf.org/erf2007/](http://www.erf.org/erf2007/)

For more information on upcoming events, please visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html).

## NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

### Coastal Community Planning and Development

December 4 to 5  
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

### Project Design and Evaluation

October 10 to 11  
University of Southern California Sea Grant Program

October 30 to November 1  
Hudson River NERR

November 14 to 16  
New England Cooperative Extension

### Public Issues and Conflict Management

December 17 to 19  
Delaware NERR

### Managing Visitor Use in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

October 15 to 16  
Jacques Cousteau NERR

December 5 to 6  
Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program

### GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning

November 6 to 9  
NOAA Coastal Services Center and The Conservation Fund

For more information, please visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/training/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/).

NOAA Coastal Services Center  
2234 South Hobson Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29405-2413

**PRST STD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NOAA COASTAL  
SERVICES CENTER  
PERMIT NO. G-19**

